

A central support point pin 52 is at the midpoint of drive branching link 51. Central support point pin 52 connects connecting link 26 to pin 12.

Please replace the paragraph on page 21, lines 16-24, with the following amended paragraph:

It is to be understood, that changes in the slide stroke of slide 7 may be conducted in various manners according to manufacturer demand or customer need. For example changes in the slide stroke may be conducted by combining adjustment mechanism 10 of this third embodiment with linear guide mechanism 20 of the second embodiment (described above). For another example, changes in the slide stroke and operational efficiency of slide drive device 1 of the third embodiment may be accomplished through combination with the equipment for dynamic balancer 44 of the first embodiment. In each example, the top dead center position may be adjusted without changing the bottom dead center position.

REMARKS

This submission is in response to the Official Action dated January 15, 2003. Reconsideration of the above-identified application, in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 23-32 have been added.

Claims 1-32 are pending.

Claims 3 and 19 have been amended.

Claims 4-16 have been withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 1-3 and 17-22 stand rejected.

No new matter has been added.

The Applicant respectfully contends that new claims 23-28 belong to species A1 as defined in our Response to Election/Restriction Requirement of October 16, 2002.

The Applicant respectfully contends that new claims 29-32, which depend from generic claims 17, 22, 20, and 18, respectively, are generic.

Claims 3 and 19 have been carefully reviewed and revised to correct typographical errors and not for reasons of patentability.

II. Status of the Specification

The Specification has been carefully reviewed and revised to correct typographical errors. No new matter has been added.

III. Information Disclosure Statement

The Examiner noted that the information disclosure statement of June 10, 2002, fails to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2) and that, therefore, several references listed on that document have not been considered. To address this issue, Applicant submits, concurrently with this Amendment, a Supplemental Information Disclosure

Statement that complies with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2) and copies of the cited references as attachments thereto. Consideration of these references and acknowledgment by initialing Form PTO-1449 is respectfully requested.

IV. 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Rejections

Claims 1-3 and 17-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,848,568 to Imanishi. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection since Imanishi does not disclose all of the elements of the claimed invention.

With respect to claims 1 and 17, the Examiner points to the first slider 14 of the Imanishi patent as allegedly disclosing the "means for adjusting said slide drive device". However, the first slider 14 of the Imanishi patent is not adjustable. As stated in Imanishi, column 4, lines 19-21, "[as] the large end [of the connecting rod 13] rotates, the small end of connecting rod 13 and first slider 14 are raised and lowered in first groove 61." Thus, the first slider 14 of the Imanishi patent is not adjustable since its movement is dependent on the length of connecting rod 13.

Furthermore, the first slider 14 of the Imanishi patent cannot "adjust a stroke of said slide." First slider 14 can only be raised and lowered and this distance is fixed to the length of the connecting rod 13. Imanishi also teaches that the slide is adjusted via the position of second slider 15.

Also, first slider 14 and second slider 15 are unable to be "pivotable about a center position to adjust said stroke" as stated in claim 1. Imanishi states that "[f]irst slider 14 is restricted by first groove 61 to vertical movement within first groove 61." Imanishi,

column 4, lines 3-4. Second slider 15 is "movably connected in a second groove 62... [which] guides movement of second slider 15 in a horizontal direction." Imanishi, column 4, lines 30-32.

Additionally, the first slider 14 of the Imanishi patent is incapable of "adjusting said slide drive device" and is incapable of "permitting adjustment of said slide", as stated in claim 17, because of the reasons stated above.

Applicant respectfully submits that for the aforementioned reasons, claims 1 and 17 of the present invention are not anticipated by Imanishi.

Claims 2-3 and 18-22 are dependent, directly or indirectly, from claims 1 and 17 and are therefore patentable for at least the same reasons. Newly added claims 23-32 are also dependent on claims 1 and 17 and are therefore also patentable for at least the same reasons.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the invention of claims 1-3 and 17-30 is patentable over Imanishi. Applicant respectfully traverses the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection and requests the withdrawal thereof in light of the amendments herein.

CONCLUSION

Therefore, in view of the above remarks, it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered and that all pending claims be allowed and the case passed to issue.

If there are any other issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the

Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



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MARKED-UP VERSION FOR AMENDMENT

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the following claim pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121 as follows:

3. (Amended) A slide drive device, according to claim 2, wherein:

 said [adjustment] adjusting means is operably affixed to said connecting rod;

 said adjusting means is operable to guide said connecting rod along a specified trajectory; and

 said adjusting means is pivotable about said center position to adjust said specified trajectory whereby said stroke is adjusted.

19. (Amended) A slide drive device, according to claim 18, further comprising:

 a center position on said adjusting means;

 said center position being proximate said one dead center position;

 said adjusting means being operable about said center position to effect said adjustment[;].

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph on page 14, line 25, to page 15, line 5, with the following amended paragraph:

During operation crank shaft 8 rotates and connecting rod 11 oscillates. Slider 13, connected to the small end of connection rod 11 through [pin] pin 12 reciprocates along groove 15 of adjusting mechanism 10. Connecting link 26 converts this reciprocating motion to a substantially vertical reciprocating motion of slider 23 in linear guide mechanism 20. It is to be understood, that descriptive phrases vertical or horizontal or otherwise are used for convenience and are not required for operation in other orientations.

Please replace the paragraph on page 19, lines 1-2, with the following amended paragraph:

A central support point pin 52 is at the midpoint of drive branching link 51. Central support point pin 52 connects connecting [through] link 26 to pin 12.

Please replace the paragraph on page 21, lines 16-24, with the following amended paragraph:

It is to be understood, that changes in the slide stroke of slide 7 may be conducted in various manners according to manufacturer demand or customer need. For example changes in the slide stroke may be conducted by combining adjustment mechanism 10 of this third embodiment with linear guide mechanism 20 of the second embodiment (described above). For another example, changes in the slide stroke and operational efficiency of slide drive device 1 of the third embodiment may be

accomplished through combination with the equipment for dynamic balancer [22] 44 of the first embodiment. In each example, the top dead center position may be adjusted without changing the bottom dead center position.